

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

May 05 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

May 5, 2021

Gregg Lodan
City of Torrance
3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503

RE: City of Torrance General Plan Housing
Element 6th Cycle Update Project – Notice
of Preparation of an Environmental Impact
Report (NOP)
SCH # 2021040754
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03567
Vic. LA-107/PM: 1.992

Dear Gregg Lodan:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced NOP. The project is the update of the City of Torrance's 6th Cycle 2021-2029 General Plan Housing Element. The project also includes revisions to the General Plan Land Use Element text and General Plan Land Use Map. The City of Torrance is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project area, which is the entire City of Torrance, intersects with Interstate 405 and State Route 1 (also known as Pacific Coast Highway). From reviewing the NOP, Caltrans has the following comments.

- Senate Bill 743 (2013) mandates that VMT be used as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts of all future development projects under CEQA, starting July 1, 2020. For information on determining transportation impacts in terms of VMT on the State Highway System, see the *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA* by the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), dated December 2018: http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743_Technical_Advisory.pdf.
- The City can also refer to Caltrans' updated *Vehicle Miles Traveled-Focused Transportation Impact Study Guide* (TISG), dated May 2020 and released on Caltrans' website in July 2020: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/sb-743/2020-05-20-approved-vmt-focused-tisg-a11y.pdf>. Caltrans' new TISG is largely based on the OPR 2018 Technical Advisory.
- Caltrans looks forward to reviewing the VMT analysis for this project. As discussed in Caltrans' new TISG, Caltrans strongly recommends undertaking project VMT analysis, significance determination, and potential mitigation in a manner consistent with OPR's Technical Advisory.
- The updated TISG states, "Additional future guidance will include the basis for requesting transportation impact analysis that is not based on VMT. This guidance will include a simplified safety analysis approach that reduces risks to all road users and that focuses on multi-modal conflict analysis as well as access management issues." Since releasing the TISG, Caltrans has released interim safety analysis guidance, dated December 2020 and found here, for the City's reference: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/sb-743/2020-12-22-updated-interim-ldigr-safety-review-guidance-a11y.pdf>.

- Caltrans encourages lead agencies to complete traffic safety impact analysis in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process so that, through partnerships and collaboration, California can reach zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050.

The following information is included for your consideration.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Furthermore, Caltrans encourages Lead Agencies to implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies that reduce VMT and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. For potential TDM options to integrate into this project, please refer to:

- The 2010 *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), available at <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>, or
- *Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference* (Chapter 8) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), available at <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/index.htm>.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Emily Gibson, the project coordinator, at Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2021-03567.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong for

MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief
cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse